REMARKS

Claims 58-92 remain pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 58-75, 77-81, 83-87, and 89-92 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner asserts that "Claim 1, for example, recites 'when the packet is a start packet, at the client side, adding a tag to the start packet to indicate that the start packet should be forwarded by a device other than a client side device to a plurality of replicas that each duplicates the data contents of the server, wherein the tag is an option byte having one of two states that indicate whether redirection is permissible or impermissible." The Examiner then states that the specification "lacks written description in determining when redirection is permissible or impermissible" and that the "Examiner does not understand what is the functional relationship between a 'start packet' to 'a plurality of replicas' and 'an option byte' to 'permissible state' or 'impermissible state.'

The specification contains examples of determining when redirection is permissible or impermissible. For example, redirection determination is described in the application 60/168,862 (which is incorporated by reference) at pages 7-8, among other places:

> Traffic Interception and Redirection
>
> Interception
>
> A router will check packets passing through it against its set of Service Group descriptions. The Service Group descriptions are checked in priority order. A packet which matches a Service Group description is a candidate for redirection to a web-cache in the Service Group.
>
> A router will not redirect a packet with a source IP address of a web-cache in the Service Group.
>
> Redirection
>
> The router will redirect packets using a two-stage process. In the first stage a primary key is formed from the packet (as defined by the Service Group description) and hashed to yield an index into the Redirection Hash Table.
>
> If the Hash Table entry contains an unflagged web-cache index then the packet will be redirected to that web-cache. If the bucket is unassigned the packet is forwarded without redirection. If the bucket is flagged as requiring a secondary hash then a secondary key is formed and hashed to yield an index into the Hash Table. If the

> secondary entry contains a web-cache index then the packet will be directed to the web-cache; if the entry is unassigned the packet will be forwarded without redirection.

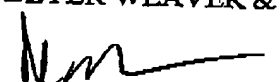
The present application also describes several examples of redirection determination at page 5, lines 2-6:

> An example of a case in which packets would need to be reinserted in the original flow might be where the cache recognizes the source and destination pairs identified by the packets as corresponding to a connection requiring IP-based authentication. Another example would be where the cache is overloaded and is currently unable to handle all of the redirected traffic.

The above descriptions clearly describe mechanisms for determining when redirection is permissible or impermissible (*e.g.*, based on whether the packet matches a particular service group description, based on whether the packets correspond to a connection requiring authentication, or whether a cache is overloaded, etc.). Page 12, Line 14 through Page 13, Line 1 then gives an example of how this determination of redirection permission is specified in a start packet via an option byte. Since these portions of the specification clearly describe examples of how to determine whether redirection is permissible or impermissible and then how to specify this determination in a start packet's option byte, it is respectfully submitted that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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